

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



Vol. 3, No. 1.

ORGANIZER

April 1938

DR. STOCKBERGER APPROVES UNIONS' PROMOTIONS PLAN

Union forces moved a step further recently in establishing a career service in the Department of Agriculture through an effective promotions-from-within policy.

This is the result of a successful conference March 24 between representatives of several Agriculture unions and Dr. W. W. Stockberger, Director of Personnel.

At this conference, led by John A. Schricker, of Local No. 2, U.F.W.A., and Dr. Herbert A. Smith, of the Agriculture Branch, N.F.F.E., Dr. Stockberger accepted all points of the joint union program, which called for the enforcement of genuine promotions-from-within principles through a comprehensive machinery providing for:

1. Thorough circularization first of bureau and then of the Department, of existing vacancies.
2. Non-competitive examinations for qualified applicants not possessing the requisite Civil Service rating.
3. Right of appeal for applicants who feel they have not been given proper consideration.
4. Appointments from Civil Service registers and by inter-departmental transfer to be made only if qualified applicants do not appear from Agriculture.

Agriculture Local No. 2, U.F.W.A., succeeded nearly a year ago in obtaining a pronouncement of a promotions-from-within policy from Dr. Stockberger, but the forthcoming memorandum

(Personnel Circular No. 46) did not express the necessary guarantees sought by the union. Its appeal to other Agriculture groups for aid in working out a comprehensive system to meet approval of the Administration brought forth the cooperation of Agriculture Branch, N. F. F. E., Bureau of Public Roads Lodge, A. F. G. E., Soil Conservation Lodge, A.F.G.E., Farm Security Local, U.F.W.A., Federal Surplus Commodities Local, U.F.W.A., and Beltsville Local, U.F.W.A.

In due course, a plan was drafted, accepted by the organizations participating, and presented to Dr. Stockberger a few months ago. After numerous delays, Dr. Stockberger finally set March 24 as the conference date.

The conferees were:

For the Administration: Dr. W. W. Stockberger, P. A. Gladmon, and Dr. C. I. Hendrickson.

For the unions: John A. Schricker, Dr. Herbert A. Smith, Nellie Shafer, Elmer Brown, and William Parker. Isidore Salkind and Dwight Kelley were unable to be present.

Mrs. Cecelia L. Schricker is now representing the Group Health Association, Inc., in the AAA, and collecting dues from members on paydays and Tuesdays from 4 to 5. She may be reached in Room 1084 South Building, Branch 2009, at that hour, and on those days, but at no other time.

WHITE COLLAR WORKERS MEET

If you want to be a better social worker, a more astute reporter, a more effective school teacher, a greater producing traveling salesman, or a more virtuous farmer's daughter --- ORGANIZE!

This was the keynote of the mass meeting in Baltimore, Sunday, March 6, to organize the "white collar" workers of that city. Heywood Broun headed the list of distinguished speakers.

"Now that the traveling salesman have organized," winked a genial Broun, "the next step is to organize the farmers' daughters." And scratched his head while everyone howled.

Briefly, and emphasizing the light touch, Broun outlined the development of the American Newspaper Guild, and wound up with a confession that he was NOT a Communist, "although lots of people think I am."

Mary Foley Grossman, Vice-President American Federation of Teachers, traced her metamorphosis from a "white rabbit" to an active member of a trade union. As a result, the teachers of Philadelphia have a tenure bill which would require an Act of God to remove them from their positions. And all because Mary Foley Grossman joined a trade union.

Federal employees are not so fortunate. According to Jacob Baker, security of tenure in Government circles is often dependent upon the whim of a superior officer. Civil Service regulations protect only a minority.

GROUP HEALTH THREATENED

A mass meeting protesting the discriminatory and unethical action taken by local hospitals against members and doctors of the Group Health Association will be held Monday, April 11, at 8 P.M., in the Federal Auditorium on Constitution Av., between 12th & 14th.

Every member of the organization and every supporter of the concept of cooperative clinical medicine is urged to attend the meeting to show the people of Washington, the local press, and members of Congress that a substantial portion of Federal employees back the Group Health Association and are willing to fight for the right of Federal employees to take care of health problems as they desire, without dictation from the organized doctors of the District.

The reactionary bloc in the District Medical Society, is certain to lose its fight against Group Health. Expulsion of two GHA staff physicians

from the DMS and denial of patient care by a local hospital have aroused Government workers to a high resentment. Latest overtures from the DMS to try to smooth over its dictatorial tactics have not deceived Federal employees.

This is a time for action, and the mass meeting is a fitting method for showing it.

The next regular meeting of Agriculture Local No. 2, U.F.W.A., will be held on Wed., Apr. 6, at 8 P.M., at the national office, 512 - 17th Street, N. W. Cedric Fowler will address the members on "Collective Security".

Mr. Fowler is Assistant Publicity Director for the CIO, a member of the American Newspaper Guild, and an instructor of classes in "Behind the News" and "Trade Union Publicity" at the Federal Workers School.

INCOME TAX URGED

4-34
A 1 to 10% graduated income-tax measure will be introduced in the House, April 11, and then in the Senate, to replace the intangible properties tax and the ominous sales tax.

Behind this measure are the masses of District citizens, represented in the Citizens' Committee on Fair Taxation, who have studied all angles of problems of revenue-raising.

The difference in rates and amounts between income and sales taxes per annum for a single person with no dependents is indicated below:

1% Sales Tax	Income Tax
\$1,000 income - \$ 8.30	Nothing, exempt.
\$2,000 income - \$14.50	\$ 6.00
\$3,000 income - \$18.00	\$13.36

The sales tax is a burden on consumption. The income tax never discourages earning more income, and cannot take more than a man earns nor absorb all additional money earned. The sales tax can and does take from those having least income. Even those on relief pay burdensome taxes on purchases of necessities.

Eighty to ninety percent of District taxpayers are due to benefit from the income tax.

The current meeting of the Tax Council was set for Wed., April 6.

JOIN LOCAL #2 TODAY!

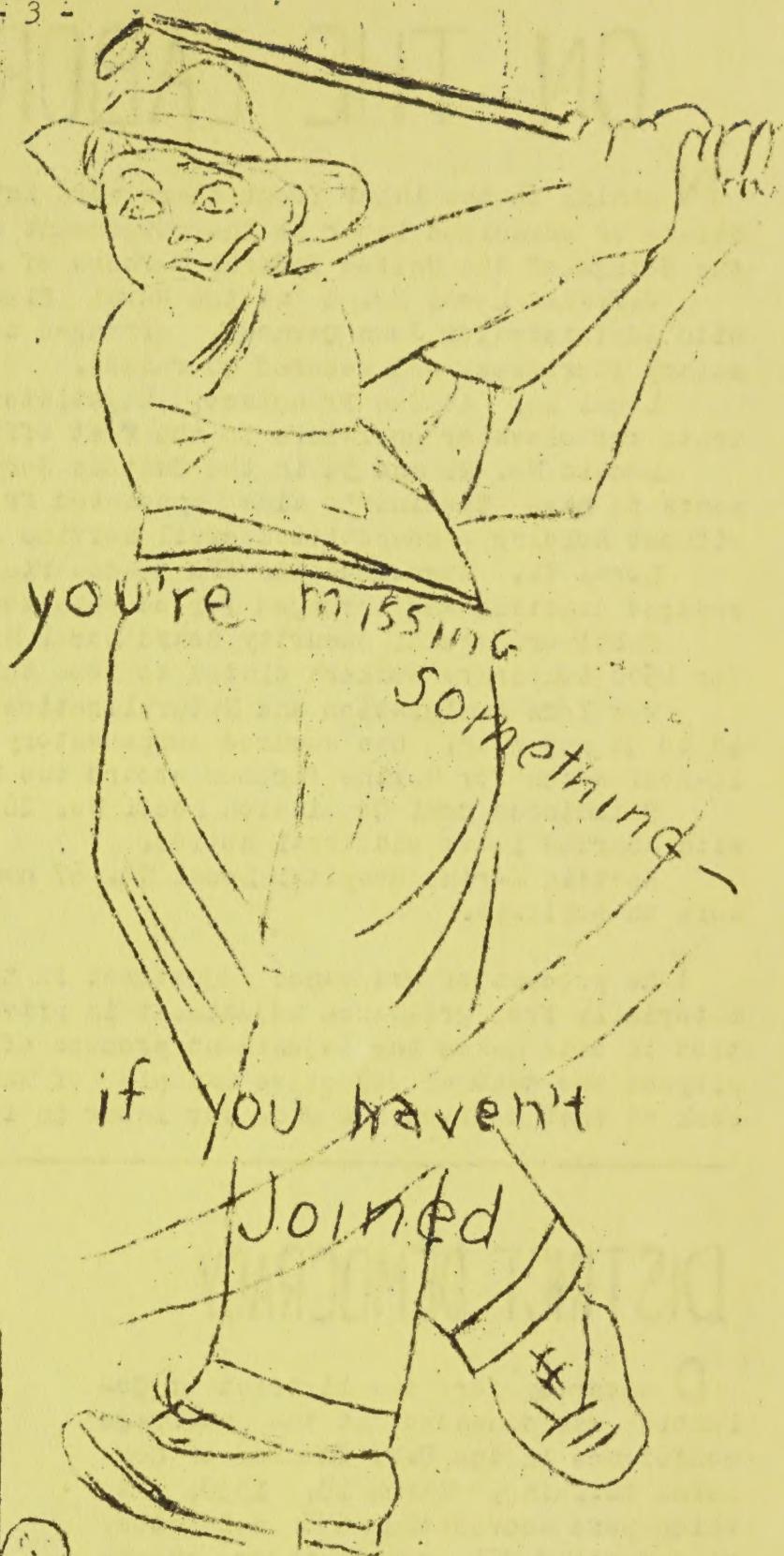
Name _____

Address _____

Bureau _____ Bldg. _____

Room No. _____ Office Phone _____

Fill out this blank and return by chain letter to John A. Schricker, Room 3630, South Bldg., Dept. Agric.



"AGRICULTURE LOCAL 2
U.F.W.A.

ON THE LABOR FRONT

Nothing on the labor front bears more interest for government workers than the doings of organized labor in the government service. And that is synonymous with the doings of the United Federal Workers of America.

U.F.W.A. Local No. 6 at the Rural Electrification Administration conferred with Administrator John Carmody, arranged to have all available funds turned to salary increases, and secured 80 raises.

Local 16, at San Francisco, negotiated salary increases of five dollars per month for elevator operators in the Post Office Building.

Locals No. 21 and 54 in the Customs Service in New York, are making arrangements to have Examiner's Aids appointed from employees already in the service without holding a competitive civil service examination.

Local 71, Massachusetts WPA Headquarters in Boston, have already materially reduced overtime and arranged for compensatory leave.

Baltimore Social Security Board Local No. 17 is negotiating for a WPA project for 1500 temporary workers slated to lose their jobs next month.

New York Immigration and Naturalization Local No. 53 has reduced hours from 48 to 44 per week, has secured compensatory leave for overtime, has abolished the 16-hour watch for Marine firemen aboard the Ellis Island ferryboats.

Bituminous Coal Commission Local No. 26 has won an agreement for two weeks with accrued leave dismissal notice.

Seattle Marine Hospital Local No. 67 has won a 9-hour day with time off for work on holidays.

The process of grievance adjustment in the government service does not differ materially from grievance adjustment in private industry. Strong union organization in both makes the adjustment process efficient and effective. Government employees who want an objective example of what a union can do for them need only look at what a union has done for labor in industry.

DISTRICT DEMOCRACY

Democracy for the District of Columbia was demanded at the suffrage conference in the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Building, March 18, 1938, to which were accredited 698 delegates, representing 271 organizations, speaking for 129,707 District citizens.

A resolutions committee has been appointed to draw up a plan of suffrage for the next meeting, April 22.

Prominent among suffrage supporters are former People's Counsel William A. Roberts, Representatives Teigan and Randolph, Senator Capper, and Newbold Noyes. Mrs. Montgomery is chairman of the credentials committee and Charles A. Franklin is secretary of the conference.

THE MODERN DANCE

Ruth Riley addressed the past meeting of Agriculture Local No. 2 on "The Modern Dance and the Labor Movement".

Miss Riley, a member of Local 2 and leader of the dance class, held during the first semester of the Federal Workers School, traced the historical development of the dance from primitive times to the present day, showing how the dance has reflected the contemporary social and economic structure of each period, and how at the present time this trend has resulted in dancers' and other artists' reflecting in their dances the same problems and interests that unions are concerned with -- peace, democracy, strikes, unemployment, etc.